

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please insert the following heading at page 1, between lines 1-2:

-- BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION --.

Please amend the last paragraph of page 1 as follows:

-- Patent Applications DE 100 60 889 and DE 101 44 925 unpublished at the priority filing date of the present patent application, describe devices for the cryostorage of microscopically small biological samples. In these it is especially provided to deposit the samples in a cryostorage device each together with sample data which are characteristic to the relevant samples. There is a need to read or supplement the sample data in the data storages whilst the sample is in the cryopreserved state. Depending on the storage principle of the sample data, data-bus-bound or optical access to the data storage device has conventionally been realised. This may have the disadvantage that the handling capability of the cryostorage can be limited. --.

Please rewrite the second full paragraph on page 3 as follows:

-- These objects are solved by methods and apparatus ~~having the features according to claims 1, 9 and 15. Advantageous embodiments and applications of the invention are defined from the dependent claims.~~

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --.

Please insert the following heading at page 7, between the third and fourth paragraphs:

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS --.

Please insert the following heading at page 8, between the first and second paragraphs:

-- DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS --.